

PATENT

B. AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claim 1 (previously canceled)

Claim 2 (previously amended) The method as described in claim 4 wherein the automatically determining further comprises:

testing a speed for each of the plurality of proxy servers;
and

determining a highest speed.

Claim 3 (previously amended) The method as described in claim 4 wherein the automatically determining further comprises:

setting a minimum speed limit for a selected proxy server;
comparing a speed for the selected proxy server with the
minimum speed limit; and

testing each of the plurality of proxy servers in response
to the speed for the selected proxy server falling below the
minimum speed limit.

Claim 4 (twice amended) A method for selecting a proxy server, said method comprising:

identifying a plurality of proxy servers; and
automatically determining at least one of the proxy servers
to use when accessing a network wherein the automatically
determining further includes:

receiving a URL destination address from a client computer system; and

comparing the destination address to a plurality of network
addresses, each of the network addresses corresponding with a
proxy server identifier, wherein at least one of the network
addresses includes one or more wildcard characters, the wildcard
characters identifying more than one address corresponding to
the network address.

PATENT

Claim 5 (original) The method as described in claim 4 further comprising:

returning the proxy server identifier corresponding to the network address that matches the received destination address.

Claim 6 (original) The method as described in claim 4 further comprising:

returning a default proxy server identifier in response to the received destination address not matching any of the network addresses.

Claim 7 (previously amended) A method for selecting a proxy server, said method comprising:

identifying a plurality of proxy servers; and
automatically determining at least one of the proxy servers to use when accessing a network, wherein the automatically determining further comprises:

receiving a destination address; and
comparing the destination address to a plurality of network addresses, each of the network addresses corresponding with a proxy server identifier, and
wherein at least one of the network addresses includes one or more wildcard characters, the wildcard characters identifying more than one address corresponding to the network address.

Claim 8 (previously amended) The method as described in claim 4 further comprising:

modifying a proxy configuration setting using the selected proxy server identifier, the proxy configuration setting identifying the proxy server used by a client computer system.

Claim 9 (previously amended) The method as described in claim 4 wherein the identifying further comprises:

reading a proxy server identifier associated with each of

PATENT

the proxy servers.

Claim 10 (previously amended) The method as described in claim 4 wherein the identifying further comprises:

- connecting to a second computer system using a network; and
- receiving a plurality of proxy server identifiers from the second computer system.

Claim 11 (previously amended) The method as described in claim 4 further comprising:

- determining a fastest proxy server from the plurality of proxy servers;

- setting a default proxy server address to the address of the fastest proxy server;

- receiving a destination address from a user;

- locating the destination address in a proxy table, the proxy table including one or more network addresses and a proxy server identifier corresponding with each network address;

- selecting the proxy server identifier corresponding with the network address in response to locating the destination address in the proxy table; and

- selecting the default proxy server address in response to not locating the destination address in the proxy table.

Claim 12 (previously canceled)

Claim 13 (previously amended) The information handling system as described in claim 15 wherein the proxy selection tool further comprises:

- means for testing a speed for each of the plurality of proxy servers; and

- means for determining a highest speed.

Claim 14 (previously amended) The information handling system as

PATENT

described in claim 15 wherein the proxy selection tool further comprises:

means for setting a minimum speed limit for a selected proxy server;

means for comparing a speed for the selected proxy server with the minimum speed limit; and

means for testing each of the plurality of proxy servers in response to the speed for the selected proxy server falling below the minimum speed limit.

Claim 15 (twice amended) An information handling system comprising:

one or more processors;

a memory accessible by the processors;

a nonvolatile storage device accessible by the processors;

a network interface connecting the information handling system to a computer network; and

a proxy selection tool, the proxy selection tool including:

means for reading a plurality of proxy server identifiers;

means for evaluating at least one of the proxy servers;

means for selecting one of the plurality of proxy server identifiers in response to the evaluating,

wherein the proxy selection tool further includes:

means for receiving a destination address; and

means for comparing the destination address to a plurality of network addresses, each of the network addresses corresponding with a proxy server identifier, wherein at least one of the network addresses includes one or more wildcard characters, the wildcard characters identifying more than one address corresponding to the network address..

Claim 16 (original) The information handling system as described in claim 15 wherein the proxy selection tool further comprises:

PATENT

means for returning the proxy server identifier corresponding to the network address that matches the received destination address.

Claim 17 (original) The information handling system as described in claim 15 wherein the proxy selection tool further comprises:

means for returning a default proxy server identifier in response to the received destination address not matching any of the network addresses.

Claim 18 (previously amended) An information handling system comprising:

- one or more processors;
- a memory accessible by the processors;
- a nonvolatile storage device accessible by the processors;
- a network interface connecting the information handling system to a computer network; and
- a proxy selection tool, the proxy selection tool including:
 - means for reading a plurality of proxy server identifiers;
 - means for evaluating at least one of the proxy servers;
 - means for selecting one of the plurality of proxy server identifiers in response to the evaluating,wherein the proxy selection tool further includes:
 - means for receiving a destination address; and
 - means for comparing the destination address to a plurality of network addresses, each of the network addresses corresponding with a proxy server identifier, andwherein at least one of the network addresses includes one or more wildcard characters, the wildcard characters identifying more than one address corresponding to the network address.

Claim 19 (previously amended) The information handling system as described in claim 15 wherein the proxy selection tool further comprises:

PATENT

means for modifying a proxy configuration setting using the selected proxy server identifier, the proxy configuration setting identifying the proxy server used by a client computer system.

Claim 20 (previously amended) The information handling system as described in claim 15 wherein the proxy selection tool further comprises:

means for determining a fastest proxy server from the plurality of proxy servers;

means for setting a default proxy server address to the address of the fastest proxy server;

means for receiving a destination address from a user;

means for locating the destination address in a proxy table, the proxy table including one or more network addresses and a proxy server identifier corresponding with each network address;

means for selecting the proxy server identifier corresponding with the network address in response to locating the destination address in the proxy table; and

means for selecting the default proxy server address in response to not locating the destination address in the proxy table.

Claim 21 (previously canceled)

Claim 22 (currently amended) The computer program product as described in claim ~~[[21]]~~15 wherein the means for evaluating further comprises:

means for testing a speed for each of the plurality of proxy servers; and

means for determining a highest speed.

Claim 23 (twice amended) The computer program product as

PATENT

described in claim ~~[[21]]~~15 wherein the means for evaluating further comprises:

means for setting a minimum speed limit for a selected proxy server;

means for comparing a speed for the selected proxy server with the minimum speed limit; and

means for testing each of the plurality of proxy servers in response to the speed for the selected proxy server falling below the minimum speed limit.

Claim 24 (previously amended) A computer program product for selecting a proxy server, said computer program product comprising:

means for reading a plurality of proxy server identifiers;

means for evaluating at least one of the proxy servers;

means for selecting the proxy server identifier corresponding to one of the evaluated proxy servers,

wherein the means for evaluating further includes:

means for receiving a destination address; and

means for comparing the destination address to a plurality of network addresses, each of the network addresses corresponding with a proxy server identifier, wherein at least one of the network addresses includes one or more wildcard characters, the wildcard characters identifying more than one address corresponding to the network address.

Claim 25 (original) The computer program product as described in claim 24 further comprising:

means for returning the proxy server identifier corresponding to the network address that matches the received destination address.

Claim 26 (original) The computer program product as described in

PATENT

claim 24 further comprising:

means for returning a default proxy server identifier in response to the received destination address not matching any of the network addresses.

Claim 27 (previously amended) A computer program product for selecting a proxy server, said computer program product comprising:

means for reading a plurality of proxy server identifiers;
means for evaluating at least one of the proxy servers;
means for selecting the proxy server identifier corresponding to one of the evaluated proxy servers,
wherein the means for evaluating further includes:
means for receiving a destination address; and
means for comparing the destination address to a plurality of network addresses, each of the network addresses corresponding with a proxy server identifier, and
wherein at least one of the network addresses includes one or more wildcard characters, the wildcard characters identifying more than one address corresponding to the network address.

Claim 28 (previously amended) The computer program product as described in claim 24 further comprising:

means for modifying a proxy configuration setting using the selected proxy server identifier, the proxy configuration setting identifying the proxy server used by a client computer system.

Claim 29 (previously amended) The computer program product as described in claim 24 further comprising:

means for determining a fastest proxy server from the plurality of proxy servers;
means for setting a default proxy server address to the address of the fastest proxy server;

PATENT

means for receiving a destination address from a user;
means for locating the destination address in a proxy table, the proxy table including one or more network addresses and a proxy server identifier corresponding with each network address;

means for selecting the proxy server identifier corresponding with the network address in response to locating the destination address in the proxy table; and

means for selecting the default proxy server address in response to not locating the destination address in the proxy table.

Claim 30 (NEW) The method as described in claim 7 wherein the automatically determining further comprises:

testing a speed for each of the plurality of proxy servers;
and

determining a highest speed.

Claim 31 (NEW) The information handling system as described in claim 18 wherein the proxy selection tool further comprises:

means for testing a speed for each of the plurality of proxy servers; and

means for determining a highest speed.

Claim 32 (NEW) The computer program product as described in claim 27 wherein the means for evaluating further comprises:

means for testing a speed for each of the plurality of proxy servers; and

means for determining a highest speed.